

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /177 W

-----006303 252140Z /41

R 251437Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5800

INFO EC COLLECTIVE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 0550

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, DA

SUBJ: LOS - ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON TO SEAPOWER  
SYMPOSIUM

REF: STATE 12946

SUMMARY. MFA'S LOS CHIEF VILLADSEN AMPLIFIED HIS COMMENT ON AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S SPEECH BY RECALLING DANISH AND EC NINE POSITIONS WHICH ARE PRESUMABLY WELL KNOWN AND LARGELY SQUARE WITH THOSE OF THE US. VILLADSEN FOUND RICHARDSON'S CANDOR REFRESHING. "OUR SIDE" HAS TO STAND UP SOLIDLY AGAINST THE UNREASONABLE POSITION ON SEA BED MINING FORCED THROUGH BY THE GROUP OF 77 AND EMBODIED IN THE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE ICNT. THE ONE ASPECT OF THE RICHARDSON SPEECH VILLADSEN SAID THE DANES HAD PROBLEMS WITH WAS ON INSTITUTIONAL VOTING. VILLADSON WAS PESSIMISTIC, HOWEVER, OVER THE CHANCES OF REACHING ANY AGREEMENT ON SEA BED MINING AND SAID THAT AS MUCH AS THE DANES WOULD REGRET A CONFERENCE FAILURE, THEY COULD LIVE WITH IT. END SUMMARY.  
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1. ON JANUARY 24, MFA LAW OF THE SEA CHIEF VILLADSEN PROVIDED POL COUNS WITH FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S JANUARY 18 SPEECH. THE DANES FOUND THE SPEECH OF GREAT INTEREST. VILLADSEN NOTED THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF MOST OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S REMARKS WAS FAMILIAR TO HIM. THE SPEECH WAS PARTICULARLY

COGENT IN UNDERLINING THE REASONS WHY THE CONFERENCE HAS FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT SO FAR. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S FRANKNESS IN MENTIONING THESE REASONS IS WELCOME IN THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN STATED SO CLEARLY BEFORE.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, VILLADSEN SAID THAT HE DID NOT FIND SUGGESTIONS OF CONCRETE WAYS TO REACH THE NECESSARY COMPROMISE ON DEEP SEA BED MINING. VILLADSEN WONDERED WHETHER AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S EXPRESSION OF REASONS FOR SOME OPTIMISM HAD BEEN BASED ON BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS THAT THE DANES HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF. VILLADSEN HIMSELF WAS RELATIVELY PESSIMISTIC OVER THE CHANCES FOR ANY REAL AGREEMENT.

3. VILLADSEN, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE EC NINE LOS WORKING GROUP, SAID THAT THE GROUP IS CONSULTING IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH LOS SESSIONS. ALTHOUGH THEIR FINAL POSITIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FIRMED UP, THE GENERAL LINES THAT THE NINE WISH TO TAKE ARE BECOMING APPARENT.

4. THE NINE HAVE INFORMED PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE AMERASINGHE THAT CHAPTER 11 ON DEEP SEA MINING IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE AS IT NOW  
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STANDS. THE QUESTION IS HOW CAN IT BE CHANGED.

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SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /177 W  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 0550

THE NINE ARE DISTURBED BY THE WAY THE GROUP OF 77 ARE CONSTANTLY INCREASING THEIR DEMANDS. EVERY CONCESSION MADE TO THEM IS MET NOT BY MORE REASON ON THEIR PART BUT BY MORE DEMANDS. NOW IS THE TIME, VILLADSEN SAID, FOR "OUR SIDE" TO SAY THERE WILL BE NO MORE CONCESSIONS. THE ICNT HAS DRAFTED IS NOT A PROPER BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION.

5. THE NINE ARE CONSIDERING THE ADVANTAGES OF TABLING A PAPER ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK. VILLADSEN OBSERVED THAT HERETOFORE IT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THE NINE TO AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES ON DEEP SEA BED MINING. THE DANES, THE DUTCH AND THE IRISH HAVE TENDED TO BE MORE "RADICAL" AND SYMPATHETIC TO GROUP 77 DEMANDS THAN THE UK, FRANCE, FRG, ETC. TWO OF THE REASONS FOR THIS POSITION HAS BEEN THAT THE SMALLER MEMBERS OF THE NINE HAVE LITTLE INTEREST THEMSELVES IN EXPLOITING THE DEEP SEA BED AND TEND TRADITIONALLY TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THIRD WORLD  
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ASPIRATIONS. THE SMALLER MEMBERS OF THE NINE HAVE NOW CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SYMPATHY THEY HAVE DISPLAYED TO THE GROUP OF 77 HAS FAILED TO EVOKE REASONABLE RESPONSES FROM THE GROUP.

6. FROM THE DANISH POINT OF VIEW, FAILURE TO AGREE ON DEEP SEA BED MINING WILL BE TO THE DETRIMENT OF ALL NATIONS INVOLVED IN THE CONFERENCE. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED, THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS WILL PROCEED IN ANY CASE WITH MINIMAL BENEFIT TO THE GROUP OF 77.

7. VILLADSEN ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S WARNING AT THE END OF HIS REMARKS CONCERNING THE US POSITION AND ITS INTENTION TO PROCEED UNILATERALLY IN SEA BED MINING HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BEFORE BUT NEVER SO BLUNTLY. VALLADSEN REGARDED THIS FRANKNESS AS CALLED FOR NOW. JUST AS THE US CAN PRESUMABLY LIVE WITHOUT THE TREATY, SO CAN THE DANES. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE DANES AND THE

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NINE DON'T WANT SUCH A TREATY.  
THEY DO. AND THEY WANT TO AVOID THE FALLOUT THAT  
WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT FROM THE FAILURE  
OF SUCH A PROLONGED AND IMPORTANT EXERCISE IN  
INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS.

8. IN CONCLUDING, VILLADSEN POINTED TO THE FOLLOW-  
ING SENTENCE IN AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S REMARKS:  
"... TO ALLOW RESOURCES CONSTITUTING THE COMMON HERITAGE OF  
MANKIND TO BE DISPOSED OF BY A NOSE-COUNT OF NATIONS WOULD BE A  
BAD PRECEDENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION-BUILDING OF THE  
FUTURE..."  
HE SAID THAT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE DANES COULD  
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AGREE WITH THIS OBSERVATION AS STATED. ITS IMPLICA-  
TIONS DO NOT ACCORD WITH ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL  
PRACTICE, ARE PRAGMATICALLY UNATTAINABLE AND SHOULD  
NOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME A MAJOR LOS STUMBLING BLOCK.  
THE DANES SUPPORT SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE  
NORWEGIAN MINISTER FOR LOS EVENSEN AIMED AT  
ROUGHLY BALANCING COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY POWERS BY  
PRESERVING ONE COUNTRY-ONE VOTE PRINCIPLES IN THE  
LATTER.  
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## Message Attributes

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